The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 has also imphasized to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture. It involves, *inter alia*, the following crucial elements:

- The State Governments are to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans for prioritizing the investment in the sector.
- Introduction of a new scheme for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to State Plans. The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) would assist States in planning for rainfed areas.
- Provision of additional resources for irrigation.
- Strategic focus on the national agricultural research effort.
- New initiatives for skill development for the farming community.

The Government of India has recently approved two schemes for enhancement of foodgrains productivity and production and for improving overall growth of agriculture. These are: (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM), and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS) for implementing the State and District Plans for agricultural development.

Price for gas from RIL's KG Basin

*191. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had worked out any realistic price for gas from RIL's KG Basin in order to enable them to be more competitive globally;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any interaction has been done with other Ministries in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been set up by the Government to examine and decide issues of gas pricing.

Completed projects pending for traffic

*192. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long pending broad gauge conversion between Rameswaram and Manamadurai is completed in all respects;

(b) if so, whether it is pending to be thrown open for traffic for want of inauguration by a VIP;

(c) how many projects after completion are pending for traffic for want of a VIP to inaugurate; and

(d) whether there would be a policy hereafter to put into use the projects immediately on completion instead of waiting for a formal inaugural function by a VIP?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The converted broad gauge section of Manamadurai-Rameswaram has been commissioned for passenger train services on 12.08.2007.

(c) Latur-Osmanabad and Farrukhabad-Kasganj gauge converted sections are to be commissioned for passenger services.

(d) Normally, project is commissioned for goods traffic after its completion in all respects. The opening of project for passenger traffic is after statutory inspection and certification by Commissioner of Railway Safety and necessary compliance of stipulations given in the certificate. Normally, the functions are organised for opening of completed projects for passenger services to highlight the commissioning of new routes and services and to give wider publicity. These functions are attended by elected representatives, people of the area and others. No change in this regard in the system is considered necessary.

Rail projects in Andhra Pradesh

*193. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rail lines laid/doubled/electrified during the last year and till date;

(b) the details of the rail lines already sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh, particularly in its backward and no industry districts, but work on which has not been taken up, so far;

(c) the time likely to be taken to start work on sanctioned lines; and

(d) the details of the major works to be taken up/going on in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (d) During 2006-07, 48 Kms. new line from Karimnagar to Jagtiyal and 55 rkm. of Electrification on Tirupati - Pakala section have been completed. The details of ongoing railway projects of New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Railway Electrification falling fully/partly in the State of Andhra Pradesh is given as under:-